

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., July 6, 1880.

Sir:

Referring to your communication of the 24th ult. in relation to appropriating the moneys arising from profits on medals for the purchase of coins and minerals for the cabinet of your Mint, I have to say that the Secretary of the Treasury has advised against indefinite appropriations and would probably not recommend an appropriation of the character suggested.

He has however recommended an annual appropriation of \$200.- for the purchase of specimens of coins and would doubtless increase the estimate if it was thought advisable.

I will thank you to inform me how

much you think would be required
to be appropriated annually for
each of the purposes named in
your communication.

Very respectfully,
Horatio C. Pinchard
Director.

A. Gordon Snowden, Esq.

Supt. U. S. Mint

Philadelphia

136

D. M.

Washington D.C.

Feb 6/80

H. C. Burchard

In reference to
increased appropria-
-tions for the Cabinet.

[Assays Memorandum
- when filed here.]

Recd Feb. 7th 1880.

Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia,

Assay Department.

Note for the Superintendent.

The history of this special appropriation "for specimens of ores & coins" is briefly this:

For the first three years, beginning with 1839, it was \$1000 a year. After that it was very various, & even fell to \$100; but for most of the time it ~~was~~ ^{has been} 300; last year 200.

But even this was ^{of late years} withheld from the original destination, the late Director taking it to make a Cabinet in the Bureau, & allowing this Cabinet only enough to pay for the annual set of our own coinage, and two or three rare or desirable pieces besides. Thus, this last fiscal year we have used only \$46.

It is desirable to keep up with the new issues, if only as a reference, to enable us to answer inquiries. We can also sometimes secure a rare piece at bullion value, or not much over, worth three or four times as much in market. The money spent in this way

is really not an expenditure. All the articles, coins or ores, are worth more than they cost, some of them many times over. They increase in value by age.

It is true, our cases are nearly full, ~~with~~ and it is not desirable to extend the collection merely as a boast of numbers; but we ought to keep up with national issues & changes, & with our own series, & our pattern pieces.

If therefore the approp^y were made \$300, part to keep up this Cabinet, & part for the Bureau Cabinet, it might suffice.

As to minerals & ores, both Cabinets are well stocked; and it is only an occasional nugget of special interest that need be ~~kept~~ added.

[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] In reference to increased appropriations for the Cabinet. 136

E.O.L.

Treasury Department,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
February 6, 1880

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He has however recommended an annual appropriation of \$200 for the purchase of specimens of coins and would doubtless increase the estimate if it was thought advisable.

I will thank you to inform me how much you think would be required to be appropriated annually for each of the purposes named in your communications.

Very respectfully,
Horatio C. Burchard
Director.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.
Supt. U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

[Letter Two:]

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Assay Department.

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The history of this special appropriation "for specimens of ores & coins" is briefly this:

For the first three years, beginning with 1839, it was \$1000 a year. After that it was very various, & even fell to \$100; but for most of the time it has been \$300; last year \$200.

But even this was of late years withheld from the original destination, the late Director taking it to make a Cabinet in the Bureau, & allowing this cabinet only enough to pay for the annual set of our own coinage, and two or three rare or desirable pieces besides. Thus, this last fiscal year we have used only \$46.-

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As to minerals & ores, both Cabinets are well stocked; and it is only an occasional nugget of special interest that need be added.